

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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R 200207Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0388
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
AMCONSUL BELEM
AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE
AMCONSUL RECIFE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, BR
SUBJECT: ARENA GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES FOR BAHIA AND SERGIPE

REF: A
() BRASILIA 3101 (B) SALVADOR MEMO ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL
IN BAHIA 3/21/78 (C) SALVADOR MEMO "THE BAHIA DERBY:
GUBERNATORIAL SUCESSION" 2/23/78

ARENA GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED ON APRIL 17 FOR BRAZILIAN STATES OF BAHIA AND SERGIPE ARE EXPERIENCED POPULAR POLITICIANS WHO COULD EASILY WIN DIRECT POPULAR ELECTIONS IF HELD TODAY IN THEIR STATES. BECAUSE OF THEIR WIDESPREAD POPULAR SUPPORT BOTH WILL BE IMPORTANT ASSETS TO THE ARENA PARTY IN NOVEMBER'S ELECTION. BAHIA CANDIDATE ANTONIO CARLOS MAGALHAES WAS STATE GOVERNOR 1971-1975 AND MAJOR OF SALVADOR 1967-1971. IN THESE JOBS AND OTHERS HE IS GENERALLY CREDITED WITH BEING GOOD ADMINISTRATOR. HE IS EXPECTED TO REPEAT HIS DRIVE SHOWN IN PREVIOUS OFFICE HOLDINGS TO DEVELOP MANY AND MAJOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS. THE DIFFERENCE IS THAT THIS TIME AROUND HE IS PROMISING TO DEVOTE
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MORE ATTENTION TO DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTERIOR OF THE STATE. SERGIPE CANDIDATE AUGUSTO FRANCO IS POPULAR FORMER FEDERAL DEPUTY WHO RECEIVED MORE VOTES THAN ANY OTHER SERGIPEAN CANDIDATE FOR THAT OFFICE IN THE 1966 ELECTION. HE IS A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN IN SERGIPE. HE IS CONSIDERED TO BE A GOOD ADMINISTRATOR OF HIS VARIOUS ENTERPRISES AND CONSEQUENTLY IS EXPECTED TO BE A GOOD ADMINISTRATOR OF THE STATE.

THE ARENA PARTY IS DIVIDED INTO DIFFERENT FACTIONS IN BOTH STATES. THE SPLIT IS LESS PRONOUNCED IN SMALL SERGIPE (POPULATION 1.2 MILLION, ABOUT SIZE OF MASSACHUSETTS) THAN IN BIG BAHIA (POPULATION 10 MILLION, ABOUT SIZE OF TEXAS). IN SERGIPE, AUGUSTO FRANCO WAS CLEAR "CONSENSUS" CANDIDATE WITH DISSIDENTS ACCOUNTING FOR PROBABLY ONLY 10 PERCENT OF SERGIPE ARENA PARTY. IN BAHIA, ANTONIO CARLOS MAGALHAES, AS DESCRIBED IN SALVADOR'S REF MEMOS, IS THE LEADER OF THE STONGEST AND LARGEST ARENA FACTION, ALTHOUGH HE IS POLITICAL ENEMY OF THE INCUMBENT GOVERNOR ROBERTO SANTOS, ON THE DAY BEFORE CANDIDATES WERE ANNOUNCED ROBERTO SANTOS ISSUED OFFICIAL NOTE PUBLISHED IN ALL PAPERS EXPRESSING HIS DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE CRITERIA THAT HE DEFENDED FOR THE SELECTION OF HIS SUCESSOR HAD NOT PREVAILED (PRINCIPAL CRITERIUM: MAN NOT OBJECTIONABLE TO ANY OF FOUR KEY FACTIONS OF PARTY). HE ADDED HOWEVER, THAT AS MAN OF REVOLUTION AND OF HIS PARTY HE WOULD RESPECT DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT. A DAY AFTER RELEASING THE NOTE HE PURPOSE/LY MISSED THE CEREMONY ANNOUNCING ANTONIO CARLOS MAGALHAES'S CANDIDACY. WHILE GOVERNOR IS DISAPPOINTED, AND ACM HAS A NUMBER OF OTHER POLITICAL ENEMIES, MANY OF HIS SUPPORTERS ARE CELEBRATING HIS RETURN. IN CAPITAL CITY OF SALVADOR AND IN VARIOUS TOWNS IN THE INTERIOR CARNIVAL-LIKE PARTIES AND FIREWORKS BEGAN AFTER HIS CANDIDACY WAS ANNOUNCED. WHEN HE RETURNS TO SALVADOR TONIGHT HE WILL BE GREATED BY BUSLOADS OF SUPPORTERS, LARGE ELETRIC MUSIC TRUCKS, AND FIREWORKS AT THE AIRPORT AND ALONG HIS PATH INTO TOWN. IN BAHIA AND SERGIPE THE ARENA "CANDIDATES" FOR VICE GOVERNOR,

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DIRECT ELECTION SENATOR AND "BIONIC" SENATOR HAVE BEEN REVEALED. ALL OF THEM ARE PART OF THE "SYSTEM". THEY HAVE HELD IMPORTANT POLITICAL POSITIONS IN THEIR STATES SINCE 1964 AND SOME OF THEM BEFORE 1964.

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